

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 24 June 2022

Subject: Recruitment to the post of GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Report of: Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is update members on the recruitment and selection process for the position of GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, following the announcement of intended phased retirement by the current GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer in September/October 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Note the recruitment and selection process followed to appoint to this post.
2. Approve the appointment of Gillian Duckworth as GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer at a salary of £130,000 per annum and the Chief Executive be authorised to negotiate a start date

CONTACT OFFICERS:

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Risk Management – N/A

Legal Considerations – N/A

Financial Consequences – Revenue – N/A

Financial Consequences – Capital – N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Report and minutes of Resources Committee, 11 February 2022, Recruitment to the post of GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer.

1. CONTEXT:

The post of GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer is a critical statutory role for the successful delivery of GMCA's devolved powers. The GMCA's devolved powers has meant taking on additional responsibility for the Fire Service, Transport, Policing and the functions of the Waste Authority. Additionally, the government has given further freedom and flexibility to the GMCA around criminal justice and offender management, the Adult Education Budget (AEB) has been also been devolved to Greater Manchester. These significant powers are unique to GM and set it aside from powers that have been devolved to the other city regions.

The role of the GMCA Monitoring Officer is critical to the organisation's success given the complex legal environment it operates within. The GMCA Solicitor is also the statutory Monitoring Officer for the GMCA. This is a statutory appointment under the provisions of Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The tasks are assigned to the GMCA Solicitor under the provisions of the GMCA Constitution.

2. RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

The Resources Committee at its meeting on 11th February 2022 approved a recruitment process which included the establishment of a members appointment panel chaired by the GM Mayor and use of independent consultants to undertake a robust search process and provide technical expertise to the assessment panels. To ensure a collaborative selection process across GM partners, a range of stakeholders were also engaged in the process to participate in assessments that informed the Appointment Panel's decision.

3. Appointment

Following recruitment and shortlisting, the members Appointment Panel interviewed candidates on 17th June 2022 and decided that the GMCA be recommended to approve the appointment of Gillian Duckworth as GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer at a salary of £130,000 per annum and the Chief Executive be authorised to negotiate a start date.